

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A channel allocation method in a multirate optical WDM transmission system, the method comprising:

selecting a channel having the lowest transmission speed from ~~not allotted~~a plurality of unallocated channels;

~~allotting-allocating~~ the selected channel to the longest wavelength band of a plurality of empty wavelength bands; and

determining whether ~~not allotted~~unallocated channels ~~exist~~are left from the plurality of unallocated channels ~~in order~~ to repeatedly perform selecting the channel having the lowest transmission speed from the ~~not allotted~~plurality of unallocated channels and ~~allotting-allocating~~ the selected channel to the longest wavelength band of the empty wavelength bands ~~in order from the channel with the lowest transmission speed to a channel with a highest transmission speed~~, until all the channels of the plurality of unallocated channels are ~~allotted~~allocated, wherein the allocation of selected channels from the plurality of unallocated channels reduces an effect of Raman crosstalk in the WDM transmission system.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the allotting of the selected channel comprises allotting the selected channel to longest unused wavelength band of a short wavelength band of C-band and a long wavelength band of L-band.